

2015 Netanyahu's speech to U.S. Congress
My friends, I've come here today because, as prime minister of Israel, I feel a profound obligation to speak to you about an issue that could well threaten the survival of my country and the future of my people: <b>Iran's</b> quest for nuclear weapons.
We're an ancient people. In our nearly 4,000 years of history, many have tried repeatedly to destroy the Jewish people. Tomorrow night, on the Jewish holiday of Purim, we'll read the Book of Esther. We'll read of a powerful Persian viceroy named Haman, who plotted to destroy the Jewish people some 2,500 years ago. But a courageous Jewish woman, Queen Esther, exposed the plot and gave for the Jewish people the right to defend themselves against their enemies. The plot was foiled. Our people were saved.
Today the Jewish people face another attempt by yet another Persian potentate to destroy us. <b>Iran's</b> Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei spews the oldest hatred, the oldest hatred of anti-Semitism with the newest technology. He tweets that Israel must be annihilated - he tweets. You know, in <b>Iran</b> , there isn't exactly free Internet. But he tweets in English that Israel must be destroyed.
For those who believe that <b>Iran</b> threatens the Jewish state, but not the Jewish people, listen to Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, <b>Iran's</b> chief terrorist proxy. He said: If all the Jews gather in Israel, it will save us the trouble of chasing them down around the world.
But <b>Iran's</b> regime is not merely a Jewish problem, any more than the Nazi regime was merely a Jewish problem. The 6 million Jews murdered by the Nazis were but a fraction of the 60 million people killed in World War II. So, too, <b>Iran's</b> regime poses a grave threat, not only to Israel, but also the peace of the entire world. To understand just how dangerous <b>Iran</b> would be with nuclear weapons, we must fully understand the nature of the regime.
The people of <b>Iran</b> are very talented people. They're heirs to one of the world's great civilizations. But in 1979, they were hijacked by religious zealots - religious zealots who imposed on them immediately a dark and brutal dictatorship.
That year, the zealots drafted a constitution, a new one for <b>Iran</b> . It directed the revolutionary guards not only to protect <b>Iran's</b> borders, but also to fulfill the ideological mission of jihad. The regime's founder, Ayatollah Khomeini, exhorted his followers to "export the revolution throughout the world."
I'm standing here in Washington, D.C. and the difference is so stark. America's founding document promises life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. <b>Iran's</b> founding document pledges death, tyranny, and the pursuit of jihad. And as states are collapsing across the Middle East, <b>Iran</b> is charging into the void to do just that.
The battle between <b>Iran</b> and ISIS doesn't turn <b>Iran</b> into a friend of America
<b>Iran's</b> goons in Gaza, its lackeys in Lebanon, its revolutionary guards on the Golan Heights are clutching Israel with three tentacles of terror. Backed by <b>Iran</b> , Assad is slaughtering Syrians. Back by <b>Iran</b> , Shiite militias are rampaging through Iraq. Back by <b>Iran</b> , Houthis are seizing control of Yemen, threatening the strategic straits at the mouth of the Red Sea. Along with the Straits of Hormuz, that would give <b>Iran</b> a second choke-point on the world's oil supply.
Just last week, near Hormuz, <b>Iran</b> carried out a military exercise blowing up a mock U.S. aircraft carrier. That's just last week, while they're having nuclear talks with the United States. But unfortunately, for the last 36 years, <b>Iran's</b> attacks against the United States have been anything but mock. And the targets have been all too real.
<b>Iran</b> took dozens of Americans hostage in Tehran, murdered hundreds of American soldiers, Marines, in Beirut, and was responsible for killing and maiming thousands of American service men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan.
Beyond the Middle East, <b>Iran</b> attacks America and its allies through its global terror network. It blew up the Jewish community center and the Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires. It helped Al Qaida bomb U.S. embassies in Africa. It even attempted to assassinate the Saudi ambassador, right here in Washington, D.C.
In the Middle East, <b>Iran</b> now dominates four Arab capitals, Baghdad, Damascus, Beirut and Sanaa. And if <b>Iran's</b> aggression is left unchecked, more will surely follow.
So, at a time when many hope that <b>Iran</b> will join the community of nations, <b>Iran</b> is busy gobbling up the nations.
We must all stand together to stop <b>Iran's</b> march of conquest, subjugation and terror.
Now, two years ago, we were told to give President Rouhani and Foreign Minister Zarif a chance to bring change and moderation to <b>Iran</b> . Some change! Some moderation!
Rouhani's government hangs gays, persecutes Christians, jails journalists and executes even more prisoners than before.
<b>Iran's</b> regime has been in power for 36 years, and its voracious appetite for aggression grows with each passing year.
Last year, the same Zarif who charms Western diplomats laid a wreath at the grave of Imad Mughniyeh. Imad Mughniyeh is the terrorist mastermind who spilled more American blood than any other terrorist besides Osama bin Laden. I'd like to see someone ask him a question about that.
<b>Iran's</b> regime is as radical as ever, its cries of "Death to America," that same America that it calls the "Great Satan," as loud as ever.
Now, this shouldn't be surprising, because the ideology of <b>Iran's</b> revolutionary regime is deeply rooted in militant Islam, and that's why this regime will always be an enemy of America.
Don't be fooled. The battle between <b>Iran</b> and ISIS doesn't turn <b>Iran</b> into a friend of America.
<b>Iran</b> and ISIS are competing for the crown of militant Islam. One calls itself the Islamic Republic. The other calls itself the Islamic State. Both want to impose a militant Islamic empire first on the region and then on the entire world. They just disagree among themselves who will be the ruler of that empire.
In this deadly game of thrones, there's no place for America or for Israel, no peace for Christians, Jews or Muslims who don't share the Islamist medieval creed, no rights for women, no freedom for anyone.
So when it comes to <b>Iran</b> and ISIS, the enemy of your enemy is your enemy.
The difference is that ISIS is armed with butcher knives, captured weapons and YouTube, whereas <b>Iran</b> could soon be armed with intercontinental ballistic missiles and nuclear bombs. We must always remember - I'll say it one more time - the greatest dangers facing our world is the marriage of militant Islam with nuclear weapons. To defeat ISIS and let <b>Iran</b> get nuclear weapons would be to win the battle, but lose the war. We can't let that happen.
But that, my friends, is exactly what could happen, if the deal now being negotiated is accepted by <b>Iran</b> . That deal will not prevent <b>Iran</b> from developing nuclear weapons. It would all but guarantee that <b>Iran</b> gets those weapons, lots of them.
Let me explain why. While the final deal has not yet been signed, certain elements of any potential deal are now a matter of public record. You don't need intelligence agencies and secret information to know this. You can Google it.
Absent a dramatic change, we know for sure that any deal with <b>Iran</b> will include two major concessions to <b>Iran</b> .
The first major concession would leave <b>Iran</b> with a vast nuclear infrastructure, providing it with a short break-out time to the bomb. Break-out time is the time it takes to amass enough weapons-grade uranium or plutonium for a nuclear bomb.
According to the deal, not a single nuclear facility would be demolished. Thousands of centrifuges used to enrich uranium would be left spinning. Thousands more would be temporarily disconnected, but not destroyed.
Because <b>Iran's</b> nuclear program would be left largely intact, <b>Iran's</b> break-out time would be very short - about a year by U.S. assessment, even shorter by Israel's.
And if - if <b>Iran's</b> work on advanced centrifuges, faster and faster centrifuges, is not stopped, that break-out time could still be shorter, a lot shorter.
True, certain restrictions would be imposed on <b>Iran's</b> nuclear program and <b>Iran's</b> adherence to those restrictions would be supervised by international inspectors. But here's the problem. You see, inspectors document violations; they don't stop them.
Inspectors knew when North Korea broke to the bomb, but that didn't stop anything. North Korea turned off the cameras, kicked out the inspectors. Within a few years, it got the bomb.
Now, we're warned that within five years North Korea could have an arsenal of 100 nuclear bombs.
Like North Korea, <b>Iran</b> , too, has defied international inspectors. It's done that on at least three separate occasions - 2005, 2006, 2010. Like North Korea, <b>Iran</b> broke the locks, shut off the cameras.
Now, I know this is not gonna come a shock - as a shock to any of you, but <b>Iran</b> not only defies inspectors, it also plays a pretty good game of hide-and-cheat with them.
The UN's nuclear watchdog agency, the IAEA, said again yesterday that <b>Iran</b> still refuses to come clean about its military nuclear program. <b>Iran</b> was also caught - caught twice, not once, twice - operating secret nuclear facilities in Natanz and Qom, facilities that inspectors didn't even know existed.
Right now, <b>Iran</b> could be hiding nuclear facilities that we don't know about, the U.S. and Israel. As the former head of inspections for the IAEA said in 2013, he said, "If there's no undeclared installation today in <b>Iran</b> , it will be the first time in 20 years that it doesn't have one." <b>Iran</b> has proven time and again that it cannot be trusted. And that's why the first major concession is a source of great concern. It leaves <b>Iran</b> with a vast nuclear infrastructure and relies on inspectors to prevent a breakout. That concession creates a real danger that <b>Iran</b> could get to the bomb by violating the deal.
But the second major concession creates an even greater danger that <b>Iran</b> could get to the bomb by keeping the deal. Because virtually all the restrictions on <b>Iran's</b> nuclear program will automatically expire in about a decade.
Now, a decade may seem like a long time in political life, but it's the blink of an eye in the life of a nation. It's a blink of an eye in the life of our children. We all have a responsibility to consider what will happen when <b>Iran's</b> nuclear capabilities are virtually unrestricted and all the sanctions will have been lifted. <b>Iran</b> would then be free to build a huge nuclear capacity that could product many, many nuclear bombs.
Inspectors document violations; they don't stop them.
<b>Iran's</b> Supreme Leader says that openly. He says, <b>Iran</b> plans to have 190,000 centrifuges, not 6,000 or even the 19,000 that <b>Iran</b> has today, but 10 times that amount - 190,000 centrifuges enriching uranium. With this massive capacity, <b>Iran</b> could make the fuel for an entire nuclear arsenal and this in a matter of weeks, once it makes that decision.
My long-time friend, John Kerry, Secretary of State, confirmed last week that <b>Iran</b> could legitimately possess that massive centrifuge capacity when the deal expires.
Now I want you to think about that. The foremost sponsor of global terrorism could be weeks away from having enough enriched uranium for an entire arsenal of nuclear weapons and this with full international legitimacy.
And by the way, if <b>Iran's</b> Intercontinental Ballistic Missile program is not part of the deal, and so far, <b>Iran</b> refuses to even put it on the negotiating table. Well, <b>Iran</b> could have the means to deliver that nuclear arsenal to the far-reach corners of the Earth, including to every part of the United States.
So you see, my friends, this deal has two major concessions: one, leaving <b>Iran</b> with a vast nuclear program and two, lifting the restrictions on that program in about a decade. That's why this deal is so bad. It doesn't block <b>Iran's</b> path to the bomb; it paves <b>Iran's</b> path to the bomb.
So why would anyone make this deal? Because they hope that <b>Iran</b> will change for the better in the coming years, or they believe that the alternative to this deal is worse?
Well, I disagree. I don't believe that <b>Iran's</b> radical regime will change for the better after this deal. This regime has been in power for 36 years, and its voracious appetite for aggression grows with each passing year. This deal would wet appetite - would only wet <b>Iran's</b> appetite for more.
Would <b>Iran</b> be less aggressive when sanctions are removed and its economy is stronger? If <b>Iran</b> is gobbling up four countries right now while it's under sanctions, how many more countries will <b>Iran</b> devour when sanctions are lifted? Would <b>Iran</b> fund less terrorism when it has mountains of cash with which to fund more terrorism?
Why should <b>Iran's</b> radical regime change for the better when it can enjoy the best of both world's: aggression abroad, prosperity at home?
This is a question that everyone asks in our region. Israel's neighbors - <b>Iran's</b> neighbors know that <b>Iran</b> will become even more aggressive and sponsor even more terrorism when its economy is unshackled and it's been given a clear path to the bomb.
And many of these neighbors say they'll respond by racing to get nuclear weapons of their own. So this deal won't change <b>Iran</b> for the better; it will only change the Middle East for the worse. A deal that's supposed to prevent nuclear proliferation would instead spark a nuclear arms race in the most dangerous part of the planet.
This deal won't be a farewell to arms. It would be a farewell to arms control. And the Middle East would soon be crisscrossed by nuclear tripwires. A region where small skirmishes can trigger big wars would turn into a nuclear tinderbox.
If anyone thinks - if anyone thinks this deal kicks the can down the road, think again. When we get down that road, we'll face a much more dangerous <b>Iran</b> , a Middle East littered with nuclear bombs and a countdown to a potential nuclear nightmare.
Ladies and gentlemen, I've come here today to tell you we don't have to bet the security of the world on the hope that <b>Iran</b> will change for the better. We don't have to gamble with our future and with our children's future.
We can insist that restrictions on <b>Iran's</b> nuclear program not be lifted for as long as <b>Iran</b> continues its aggression in the region and in the world.
Before lifting those restrictions, the world should demand that <b>Iran</b> do three things. First, stop its supporting terrorism in the Middle East. Second...
Second, stop supporting terrorism around the world.
And third, stop threatening to annihilate my country, Israel, the one and only Jewish state.
If the world powers are not prepared to insist that <b>Iran</b> change its behavior before a deal is signed, at the very least they should insist that <b>Iran</b> change its behavior before a deal expires.
If <b>Iran</b> changes its behavior, the restrictions would be lifted. If <b>Iran</b> doesn't change its behavior, the restrictions should not be lifted.
If <b>Iran</b> wants to be treated like a normal country, let it act like a normal country.
My friends, what about the argument that there's no alternative to this deal, that <b>Iran's</b> nuclear know-how cannot be erased, that its nuclear program is so advanced that the best we can do is delay the inevitable, which is essentially what the proposed deal seeks to do?
Well, nuclear know-how without nuclear infrastructure doesn't get you very much. A racecar driver without a car can't drive. A pilot without a plan can't fly. Without thousands of centrifuges, tons of enriched uranium or heavy water facilities, <b>Iran</b> can't make nuclear weapons.
<b>Iran's</b> nuclear program can be rolled back well-beyond the current proposal by insisting on a better deal and keeping up the pressure on a very vulnerable regime, especially given the recent collapse in the price of oil.
Now, if <b>Iran</b> threatens to walk away from the table - and this often happens in a Persian bazaar - call their bluff. They'll be back, because they need the deal a lot more than you do.
And by maintaining the pressure on <b>Iran</b> and on those who do business with <b>Iran</b> , you have the power to make them need it even more.
My friends, for over a year, we've been told that no deal is better than a bad deal. Well, this is a bad deal. It's a very bad deal. We're better off without it.
Now we're being told that the only alternative to this bad deal is war. That's just not true.
The alternative to this bad deal is a much better deal.
A better deal that doesn't leave <b>Iran</b> with a vast nuclear infrastructure and such a short break-out time. A better deal that keeps the restrictions on <b>Iran's</b> nuclear program in place until <b>Iran's</b> aggression ends.
A better deal that won't give <b>Iran</b> an easy path to the bomb. A better deal that Israel and its neighbors may not like, but with which we could live, literally. And no country has a greater stake - no country has a greater stake than Israel in a good deal that peacefully removes this threat.
Ladies and gentlemen, history has placed us at a fateful crossroads. We must now choose between two paths. One path leads to a bad deal that will at best curtail <b>Iran's</b> nuclear ambitions for a while, but it will inexorably lead to a nuclear-armed <b>Iran</b> whose unbridled aggression will inevitably lead to war.
The second path, however difficult, could lead to a much better deal, that would prevent a nuclear-armed <b>Iran</b> , a nuclearized Middle East and the horrific consequences of both to all of humanity.
You don't have to read Robert Frost to know. You have to live life to know that the difficult path is usually the one less traveled, but it will make all the difference for the future of my country, the security of the Middle East and the peace of the world, the peace, we all desire.
My friend, standing up to <b>Iran</b> is not easy. Standing up to dark and murderous regimes never is. With us today is Holocaust survivor and Nobel Prize winner Elie Wiesel. Elie, your life and work inspires to give meaning to the words, "never again."
And I wish I could promise you, Elie, that the lessons of history have been learned. I can only urge the leaders of the world not to repeat the mistakes of the past.
Not to sacrifice the future for the present; not to ignore aggression in the hopes of gaining an illusory peace.
But I can guarantee you this, the days when the Jewish people remained passive in the face of genocidal enemies, those days are over.
We are no longer scattered among the nations, powerless to defend ourselves. We restored our sovereignty in our ancient home. And the soldiers who defend our home have boundless courage. For the first time in 100 generations, we, the Jewish people, can defend ourselves.
This is why - this is why, as a prime minister of Israel, I can promise you one more thing: Even if Israel has to stand alone, Israel will stand.
But I know that Israel does not stand alone. I know that America stands with Israel. I know that you stand with Israel.
You stand with Israel, because you know that the story of Israel is not only the story of the Jewish people but of the human spirit that refuses again and again to succumb to history's horrors.
Facing me right up there in the gallery, overlooking all of us in this (inaudible) chamber is the image of Moses. Moses led our people from slavery to the gates of the Promised Land.
And before the people of Israel entered the land of Israel, Moses gave us a message that has steeled our resolve for thousands of years. I leave you with his message today, "Be strong and resolute, neither fear nor dread them."
My friends, may Israel and America always stand together, strong and resolute. May we neither fear nor dread the challenges ahead. May we face the future with confidence, strength and hope.